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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of :  
Norio CHIBA et al. :  
Serial No. 10/692,345 : Group Art Unit - 1763  
Filed: October 23, 2003 : Examiner: Roberts P. Culbert  
For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING :  
LIGHT-PROPAGATING PROBE :  
FOR NEAR-FIELD MIROSCOPE : Docket No. S004-5141

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MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2005, applicants amend their application as follows:

ELECTION OF SPECIES:

Applicants provisionally elect the species of invention characterized by the Examiner as Species I, drawn to performing steps in the order of: a step of sharpening the light-propagating probe body in a hook-shaped; a metal film coating step for forming the transparent opening section; a

MAILING CERTIFICATE ON PAGE 3